

## **Program Policy Committee Meeting Minutes**

In attendance:

Barb Perzinski – HEDC IV  
Sheilah Mevis - Child Care Partnerships  
Carrie Leu - CACFP  
Del Bock - TANF  
Darlene Miller - County Directors  
Patti Russ - NCCIC  
Valerie Mattfield - Child Care Partnerships  
Pat Knoepke - Group Facility Provider  
Melody Olson - ECSB Staff

Connie abdicated as committee chair. Need a new committee chair – Carrie Leu volunteered to be committee chair.

### **Additional Topics**

Infant/Toddler Ratios – Questions for Becky and Roy , also question for Economic Impact  
Quality Opportunities – November Meeting Prep

## **Review Benchmarks**

Number 3 Benchmark applies to program policy.

By end of fiscal year 2007 increase by 2% the proportion of children through the best beginnings scholarship program as compared to the number of children in families with income under 150% of the federal poverty.

Need number of potential persons eligible to those that where served. Do we need to increase the percentage of families served. Another number that is not on the data report is the number increase from each year. Would need to carry over the number of families eligible. Data somewhat misrepresents because does not show number of potential eligible families. Asteric on report showing that this is just the proportion served of total eligible. Chris Hettinger had, unduplicated families and children served, Families = Children = number served were lower than previous years. If population eligible under 150% goes down with the number of children served then this is proportional to the previous year. **Need to get data to see if the goal was met. Is this benchmark useful or valid?**

**Is this Benchmark Measurable? Yes.**

**Benchmark speaks to the accessibility of the Best Beginnings Scholarship programs**

### **ACTION ITEMS:**

**What information is needed to compare (Melody)**

**Number of eligible families under the 150% eligibility threshold**  
**Number of children served in families**

## **Infant/Toddler Care**

### **Lack of Slots and Cost of Care**

#### **Would have to do some kind of survey.**

Whole reason for ratios is for the children's safety. Caregiver can not get 4 infants out. If you change the ratios, you can have more slots. Discussed what the ratios are for families and groups. Not increasing the upper limits. Want to create a mobile toddler ratio. Centers, ratios are lower for older children. Food program age limits has to do with nutrition not safety. Safety issue compromised as they tend to get older, in the upper limits of the 0-2 year age as they get more mobile.

Carrie looked at map for CITC, compare R&R data with how many parents are looking for infant slots. This many slots for those who received training.

Data report shows active CITC, They may work in the same facilities so does not necessarily indicate number of slots available.

Look at work force. Number of people in the workforce that are looking for childcare.

Infants and non traditional care are the problems.

**Del can get for TANF Families the type of care that is chosen.** TANF participants, pay to hold a slot for parent down the road. Need to increase the number of slots.

#### **Questions:**

- Can we determine available slots?
- What is the parent's preference for care?
- Request for Infant Care? NAACCRRAware
- Maternal Child and Health and how many babies are coming in. Birth Rates. Census Information, NCCIC Web Site.

#### **Action Items:**

**Need statistical data to see the need and support of the issue. Need supply and demand Profile for Infant/Toddler Care in Montana (market research).**

We know that this is an issue. Where do we go, what do we need to do? Connect with OPI, is Early Childhood in the list?

## **LUP Background Checks**

Background checks process (LUP/LUI) – Angi Rayfield, Do we want to use the same criteria as licensing for LUP processing? Currently LUP backgrounds are back to age 18. Licensing goes back last 5 years.

Depending on age, and how long ago record happened. Issue came from licensed providers now wanting to do LUP care but are disqualified or have to do CPS check from out of state back to age 18.

People with a record but no convictions can be able to be a provider. Need someone that is evaluating records to be involved in Direct Caregiver background check.

Assessment process that QAD uses.

Scope of what is Director putting together for Direct Care providers.

### **Action Items:**

**Recommend to MECAC council to form a subcommittee** to look at background check process, the CPS process. Record evaluators should be part of subcommittee. Need to review the ARM for licensing and LUP. Coordination with Tribal background checks. Problematic are the CPS and Tribal checks and monitoring of LUPS vs Licensing. Look at administrative rules and aging out process. Also, look at inconsistencies in local costs for fingerprinting, CPS checks, etc .

## **Provider Letter**

What is she asking for? Wants the State to pay for slots.

Option to think about contracting for slots, this leads to monthly rates. Fetal Alcohol Syndrome could qualify for Special Needs.

Is this a bigger policy issue that needs to be looked at. And need to be changed. Monthly rate is a potential solution, paying for slots,

### **Action Items:**

Jamie respond to letter. Validate concerns and they are shared by many providers. Provide information on special needs program – CITC stipend. Needs some technical assistance, refer to Denise at Hi-Line home programs, and to talk with child care association in the area. Provider forums. Special needs has to be parent driven.

## **CACFP - 5 Day Meal**

5-Day Meal Reconciliation question from Kelly Rosenleaf in Missoula. What additional questions or concerns about 5 day reconciliation? Driven by Federal Regulations.

### **Action Item**

Do the research on Kelly's questions. **Carrie will bring information to the January meeting and hopefully Kelly will be in attendance.**

## **CACFP - Policy Changes**

New eyes to look at things. Is there continuity in contracts. Federal review was conducted in July. Looking at policies. Mary will solicit ideas if she believes it is warranted. If policies need to be looked at let food program know. Nothing the council needs to stop and look at, at this moment.

## **6 Hours at Full Day Care / Monthly Rate**

Why is a full day started at 6 hours. Reviewing the whole rate setting. Provider started going strictly hourly rate. Eight hours is a day, plus or minus 2 hours = 6 – 10 hours for a day. Is there a way to connect rates to more quality.

### **Action Items**

Recommend to discuss at January meeting when Lynn can be in attendance.

## **Closure Notice – Table**

## **Military Families Food - Table**

## **Tues through Friday Care - Table**

## **At Home Infant Care - Table**